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Ipswich. Concise history of the
First Church of Christ. 1862

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CONCISE HISTORY

OF THE

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST,

IN IPSWICH,

From its Formation, A. D. 1634, to A. D. 1862.

ALSO THE

CONFESSION OF FAITH AND COVENANT;

WITH THE

RULES OF ORDER AND OF DISCIPLINE:

TO WHICH ARE ANNEXED

THE NAMES OF ITS MEMBERS.

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CONCISE HISTORY.

Formation.

In Governor Winthrop's Journal, Vol. 1, page 120, is the following record under date of March, 1633. "The Governor's son, John Winthrop, went with 12 more to begin a plantation at Agawam, after called Ipswich."

Under date of November 26, same year, it is recorded. "Mr. Wilson (by leave of the Congregation of Boston, whereof he is pastor) went to Agawam to teach the people of that plantation, because they have yet no minister."

And again of date April 3, 1634. "The Governor went on foot to Agawam, and because the people wanted a minister, spent the Sabbath with them and exercised by way of prophecy and returned home on the 10th."

These last two entries show, that religious worship was instituted at Ipswich as early as November, 1633, but that no minister was settled in April, 1634. The exact time of the organization of the Church can not be inferred from these dates; but circumstances favor the belief, that it was soon after that last named.

This was the ninth Church in the Massachusetts Colony.

Settlement of the First Minister.

1634. Rev. Nathaniel Ward took the charge of this Church in 1634, and continued to serve it till the year 1645. Mr. Ward was assisted during the first year of his ministry by Rev. Thomas Parker, who was afterwards settled as the first Minister of Newbury.

Settlement of the Second Minister.

1636. Rev. John Norton was settled in 1636, and continued in his relation to this Church till about the year 1653; when he was removed to Boston, and became Pastor of the old Church in that place.

Settlement of the Third Minister.

1638. Rev. Nathaniel Rogers was settled, as Colleague with Mr. Norton, February 20, 1638, and continued in his relation to this Church till July 2d, 1655, when he died, aged 57 years.

Seventeen male members of Mr. Rogers' Church in England came with him to this town, and sat down under his ministry. The following, according to tradition, were some of their names. William Goodhue, Nathaniel Hart, Nathaniel Day, Robert Lord, Messrs. Warner, Quilter, Waite, Scott, Littlehale, Lambert, Lumax, Bradstreet, Dane, and Noyes. This Church was in a very happy and flourishing state under the united labors of Norton and Rogers.

Settlement of the Fourth Minister.

1656. Rev. Thomas Cobbet was settled in 1656. It appears from the Ancient Records, that this Church, under Mr. Cobbet's ministry, had a special regard to the children of those, who were members in full communion. (See Vol. 1, p. 67.) It appears also, that the Church provided for the relief of their poor members, by a special vote; and that they excommunicated the scandalous. Under Mr. Cobbet's ministry there was great attention to religion. He continued in his relation to this Church till November, 1685, when he died, aged 77.

Settlement of the Fifth Minister.

1657. Mr. William Hubbard assisted Mr. Cobbet in the ministry in 1656, and was settled as his Colleague probably in 1657, and continued in the Pastoral office till his death, September 14, 1704, aged 83.

Settlement of the Sixth Minister.

1686. After the death of Mr. Cobbet, Mr. John Dennison assisted Mr. Hubbard in the ministry. According to generally received testimony he became the actual Pastor of the Church in 1686, (the precise date not given.) Other statements represent him to have been elected to the pastoral office, but on account of failing health, not ordained. He was permitted, however, to render pastoral service to the people for three years mostly, until the 24th year of his life; he fell asleep in Jesus, Sept. 16, 1689.

Cotton Mather describes him as "a gentleman of uncommon accomplishments and expectations;" and "to the Church in Ipswich a pastor, of whose fruit they tasted with an uncommon satisfaction."

Settlement of the Seventh Minister.

1688. In 1688, Mr. John Rogers assisted in the work of the ministry, and continued so to do till his ordination, October 12, 1692. He continued in the work of the ministry till his death, December 28, 1745.

Settlement of the Eighth Minister.

1703. In 1703, while Mr. Hubbard was living, but so infirm as to discontinue the work of the ministry, Mr. Jabez Fitch was settled a third Pastor with him and Mr. Rogers. He withdrew from the pastoral relation in 1724.

Settlement of the Ninth Minister.

1727. Mr. Nathaniel Rogers was ordained Colleague with his father, Mr. John Rogers, October 18, 1727, and after his death conducted the ministry alone till near the time of his own death which occurred May 1775, aged 74. In five years of the united ministry of Rev. Messrs. John and Nathaniel Rogers, viz., from 1741 to 1746, 149 persons were added to this Church. In 1746, the Church consisted of more than 300 members.

Settlement of the Tenth Minister.

1776. Rev. Levi Frisbie was installed, as Pastor of this Church, February 7, 1776, and died February 25, 1806. God in great mercy blessed his labors, especially between the years 1798 and 1801, when 28 were added to the Church. The whole number, added to this Church during Mr. Frisbie's ministry, was 80.

1781. At a meeting of the Brethren of the Church in 1781, the question, whether the Deacons elect should be ordained, was postponed.

Settlement of the Eleventh Minister.

1806. Mr. David T. Kimball was ordained Pastor of this Church October 8, 1806, and continued to serve them in the ministry until the year 1851, when he withdrew from the pastoral office, and Rev. Robert Southgate was installed Pastor, July 24, 1851.

SUPPLEMENT.

Churches formed from this.

The Second Church in Ipswich, now the Church in Essex, organized September 6, 1681.

The Third Church in Ipswich, now the Church in Hamilton, embodied October 27, 1714.

The South Church in Ipswich gathered in 1747.

The Church in Linebrook, formed by members of this Church, and of the Churches in Rowley and Topsfield, embodied November 15, 1749.

CONFESSION OF FAITH AND COVENANT.

The following Confession of Faith and Covenant has been used by this Church, on the admission of members, from time immemorial:—

You believe and acknowledge the eternal Jehovah, who is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to be the one only living and true God; and renouncing and forsaking sin, you do give up yourself to this God, desiring truly to know him, believe in him, love and obey him, and to be made happy in the enjoyment of the blessed fruits of his love.

You believe that all mankind are fallen from God into a state of sin and misery, and that they are justly exposed to his wrath and curse.

You believe that "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life," and that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, and the only Saviour of lost man; and you give up yourself to him, desiring truly to believe on him and to be subject unto him in all his saving offices.

You believe that it is the office and work of the Holy Spirit to make application of the redemption purchased by Christ, unto all who shall be saved; and you give up yourself to him, desiring that he may be your Teacher, Sanctifier, and Comforter.

You believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and a perfect Rule of Faith and Practice; and you do take them as such.

You believe that the Great Head of the Church has instituted the Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the former of which it is the privilege of believers and their children to receive, the latter of believers only.

You also engage to submit to the watch and government of this Church, professing that by help of Divine Grace, you will walk orderly and inoffensively among us, according to the Rules and Directions of the Gospel; [and that you will endeavor, by precept and example, to bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.]

Do you thus believe, and solemnly promise and engage, before God and this Assembly?

We then receive you as a member of the same body with ourselves, entitled to all the privileges of Christ's visible kingdom; and we promise to watch over you with faithfulness and love, to bear you in remembrance at the throne of grace, and to treat you as our
in the fellowship of the Gospel.

RULES OF ORDER AND OF DISCIPLINE.

1st. *Style of the Church.*

This Church shall be styled "THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN IPSWICH."

2d. *Of the Members of this Church.*

This Church consists of all those who have, either by a public profession of religion, or regular letters of recommendation from other Churches, become connected with it.

3d. *Plan of its Government and Discipline.*

The plan of Government and Discipline of this Church shall in general correspond with that laid down in the Cambridge Platform: And the Church consider it proper, and for their edification, that the following Rules of Order and Discipline be observed.

I.—RULES OF ORDER.

1st. *Meetings of the Brethren.*

Quarterly meetings of the brethren of this Church shall be held on the last Monday evenings in March, June, September, and December, for the transaction of such business as the welfare of the Church may seem to require. It is expected that each brother will be present.

The Pastor may call a special business meeting of the brethren when he may judge it necessary, and shall always call one when requested by any two of the brethren.

If the brethren are requested to tarry after public worship on Lord's day or Preparatory Lecture day, such tarrying shall be deemed a special meeting, and record shall be made accordingly.

There shall be a weekly meeting of the Church for prayer and conference on Thursday evening, and of the Church by themselves on the first Thursday evening of each month.

All officers of the Church shall be chosen by ballot.

2d. *Of the Deacons.*

There shall be two or more Deacons, whose duty it shall be to provide for and serve the Lord's Table; receive and distribute alms, and make report yearly at the meeting of the brethren on the last Monday evening in December.

3d. *Of the Pastor.*

The Pastor shall be the stated Moderator of all meetings of the brethren. In his absence a Moderator shall be chosen by the brethren.

Each meeting shall be opened and closed with prayer by the Moderator, or by one of the brethren at his request.

4th. *Of the Clerk.*

There shall be a Clerk, whose duty it shall be to keep a fair record of all the acts of the Church; and in his absence a Clerk *pro tem.* shall be chosen.

5th. *Of the Admission of Members.*

None shall be admitted to this Church but such as in the judgment of Charity are experimentally acquainted

with repentence towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Persons desirous of becoming connected with this Church by a profession of religion, when they shall have been examined by a Committee, or in a meeting of the Church, and approved by a vote of the brethren, shall be publicly propounded for admission; and at the expiration of two weeks, no objection having been made, they may be admitted into full membership with this Church upon their giving public assent to the Confession of Faith and Covenant.

The sisters shall be privileged to attend the meetings of the Church when candidates are offered for admission to it.

6th. *Of the Reception of Members from other Churches.*

Persons presenting regular letters of dismission from other Churches and of recommendation to this Church, upon giving their assent to the Confession of Faith and Covenant, may be received into membership with us by the vote of the brethren.

Members of other Churches who have communed with this Church for twelve months are expected to remove their relation and become connected with us, or assign a sufficient reason for such neglect; otherwise they are to commune no longer with this Church.

7th. *Transfer of Members to other Churches.*

This Church will cheerfully dismiss and recommend members in good standing with us to the fellowship of other Evangelical Churches when they request it.

Members of this Church leaving town are expected to take letters of dismissal and of recommendation to some

other Church within one year of their leaving, or assign a satisfactory reason for the neglect.

And whenever a member, upon being duly notified of this rule, shall neglect for a period of six months to reply satisfactorily to the Pastor or Clerk of the Church, the Church may by a major vote at any regular meeting justly declare itself absolved from any further oversight of him.

No letter of recommendation from this Church shall be considered good for a longer period than one year, and notice to that effect shall be added to every letter of recommendation.

II.—Rules of Discipline.

1st. *General Principles.*

1. Discipline is the exercise of that authority and the system of laws which the Lord Jesus Christ has appointed for the government of his Church. It is designed to remove offences, vindicate the honor of Christ, purify the Church, and benefit offenders, and is to be exercised with due kindness and firmness.

2. An offence is any thing in the principles or practice of a Church-member which is contrary to the Word of God.

3. Offences are either private or public.

2d. *Of Private Offences.*

Offences are private which originate between individual members of the Church, affect their reputation, and are confined in their influence mainly to them.

Public offences are such as are committed against the insterests or morals of society, a public scandal, and an offence to the Church generally.

When any member has reason to think another offended with him he shall seek a reconciliation, agreeably to the rule given in Matthew v. 23, 24.

If one brother be offended with another he shall tell him his fault, as directed in Matthew xviii. 15. If unsuccessful in this, let him proceed as directed in the succeeding 16th and 17th verses.

And the Church shall act upon no case of private offence before the two previous steps shall have been regularly taken.

Disaffection towards any member of the Church, or conduct in any supposed to deserve censure, is not a sufficient reason that one should absent himself from the communion, and any member thus absenting himself is a proper subject of discipline.

In case of a public offence highly scandalous and generally known, the Church, without such gradual process as in private offences, may forthwith suspend or excommunicate the offender.

3d. *Of the Restoration of Penitent Offenders.*

Members of this Church who have been censured suspended or excommunicated, may be restored to the communion and fellowship of the Church whenever they give satisfactory evidence of penitence.

Conclusion.

No amendment or alteration shall be made to the foregoing Rules except at a regular meeting of the brethren specially notified for that purpose.

MEMBERS

Of First Church in Ipswich in June, 1862.

BRETHREN.

	Admitted.
John S. Pulsifer,	May 11, 1817
Charles Smith,	July 9, 1820
John Spiller,	Nov. 12, 1820
William Robbins,	Nov. 19, 1820
John Stalker,	Aug. 7, 1825
Stephen Baker,	Sept. 16, 1825
Philip H. Kimball,	Oct. 2, 1828
Gilbert Conant,	Dec. 20, 1829
Josiah Caldwell,	April 29, 1830
Nathaniel Lord,	May 2, 1830
Nathan Brown,	May 2, 1830
Frederic Mitchell,	May 2, 1830
David Andrews,	May 2, 1830
Isaiah Rogers,	May 2, 1830
Benjamin Averill,	May 2, 1830
Timothy Souther,	May 2, 1830
William Baker,	May 2, 1830
Daniel Haskell, Jr.,	May 2, 1830
John Farley,	May 2, 1830
Isaac Stanwood,	June 6, 1830
Jeremiah Lord,	June 6, 1830
George A. Dodge,	June 6, 1830
William Newman,	July 18, 1830
John Brewer	Aug. 29, 1830
George W. Heard,	Dec. 11, 1831

	Admitted.
Sylvanus Caldwell,	April 8, 1838
Ira Worcester,	Oct. 6, 1839
Eugene F. W. Gray,	Oct. 6, 1839
Benjamin Newman,	Sept. 17, 1843
Josiah Lord, Jr.,	Sept. 17, 1843
John H. Shatswell,	July 11, 1849
Nathan D. Dodge,	Mar. 26, 1850
Jabez Mann,	Aug. 4, 1850
Aaron Cogswell,	Aug. 4, 1850
John H. B. Cogswell,	Oct. 6, 1850
Leigh R. Worcester,	Oct. 6, 1850
John S. Kimball,	Oct. 6, 1850
James B. Lord,	Oct. 6, 1850
Nathaniel Dickinson,	Mar. 27, 1854
Warren Averill,	April 1, 1855
Isaac Flitner,	Jan. 31, 1856
Nathaniel R. Farley,	June 7, 1857
William Haskell,	June 7, 1857
Samuel W Baker,	June 7, 1857
James Williams,	Aug. 2, 1857
John N Stalker,	Oct. 4, 1857
Zenas Cushing,	Dec. 3, 1857
Isaac Kimball,	Feb. 7, 1858
John P. Cowles, Jr.,	Feb. 7, 1858
John Caldwell,	Aug. 1, 1858
Alfred Hale,	Aug. 1, 1858
William T. Averill,	April 1, 1859
John W. Bailey,	Dec. 6, 1860
Ephraim B. Harris,	Aug. 1, 1861

SISTERS.

Dolly V. Kimball,	Jan. 3, 1808
Sally Gilson,	Feb. 14, 1808
Sally Sweet,	Feb. 26, 1809
Mary Ross,	Dec. 6, 1818

	Admitted.
Elizabeth Smith,	May 28, 1820
Susan Jewett,	June 10, 1821
Elizabeth W. Cogswell,	July 22, 1821
Eliza Haycock,	Sept. 22, 1821
Sarah Newman,	Oct. 27, 1822
Abigail K. Dodge,	Sept. 16, 1825
Sarah Stanwood,	Sept. 16, 1825
Mary Rutherford,	Sept. 16, 1825
Elizabeth Glover,	Sept. 16, 1825
Abigail W. Spiller,	Sept. 16, 1825
Betsey R. Farley,	Jan. 22, 1826
Eunice Cowles,	Mar. 12, 1826
Rebecca Kimball,	May 28, 1826
Lucy Mary Warner,	July 22, 1827
Elizabeth P. Rogers,	April 29, 1830
Elizabeth Lord,	May 2, 1830
Nelly Gould,	May 2, 1830
Lydia Brown,	May 2, 1830
Louisa Mitchell,	May 2, 1830
Lucy Caldwell,	May 2, 1830
Eunice Wade,	May 2, 1830
Eliza Baker,	May 2, 1830
Lucy Mary Farley,	May 2, 1830
Elizabeth K. Gray,	May 2, 1830
Joanna Stanwood,	June 6, 1830
Abigail Pulsifer,	June 6, 1830
Hannah Stone,	June 6, 1830
Elizabeth Ann Heard,	June 6, 1830
Lucy R. Farley,	June 6, 1830
Sarah Haskell,	July 18, 1830
Abigail Lord,	Aug. 29, 1830
Elizabeth Harris,	Aug. 29, 1830
Lydia Dodge,	Aug. 29, 1830
Susanna Kimball,	Aug. 29, 1830
Lucy Harris,	Aug. 29, 1830

	Admitted.
Mary Lord,	Aug. 29, 1830
Sarah F. Haskell,	Aug. 29, 1830
Hannah Chapman,	Aug. 29, 1830
Martha Jewett,	Oct. 10, 1830
Patience L. Jewett,	Oct. 10, 1830
Susan C. Crafts,	Oct. 10, 1830
Sarah Stanwood,	Oct. 10, 1830
Elizabeth Averill,	Nov. 3, 1830
Annis Shatswell,	Nov. 3, 1830
Eunice Dennis,	Nov. 3, 1830
Sarah Farley,	Nov. 3, 1830
Lucy R. F. Hammett,	Nov. 3, 1830
Mary S. Farley,	Nov. 3, 1830
Sarah Lord,	May 20, 1832
Elizabeth Harris,	Sept. 23, 1832
Mary Lord,	Sept. 23, 1832
Lucy Ann Goodwin,	April 21, 1833
Fanny C. Goodhue,	June 15, 1834
Eunice H. Stanwood,	July 27, 1834
Mehitable F. Stanwood,	July 27, 1834
Eunice Stanwood,	Sept. 17, 1834
Eliza W. T. Dodge,	Mar. 6, 1836
Lydia Lakeman,	May 29, 1836
Mehitable Andrews,	May 29, 1836
Caroline Tenney,	July 23, 1837
Ruth G. Worcester,	Oct. 6, 1839
Sarah Burnham,	Oct. 6, 1839
Sarah E. Lord,	Oct. 6, 1839
Sarah Gad,	Oct. 6, 1839
Elizabeth W. Butler,	Oct. 18, 1840
Joanna P. Harris,	Oct. 18, 1840
Alice Porter,	Oct. 18, 1840
Eliza Boardman,	May 16, 1841
Susanna Andrews,	May 14, 1843
Emma C. Manning,	May 14, 1843

	Admitted.
Hannah Treadwell,	May 14, 1843
Lucy Woodbury,	May 14, 1843
Mary Warner,	Sept. 17, 1843
Margaret Johnson,	Oct. 29, 1843
Cynthia Blodgett,	Nov. 10, 1844
Elizabeth L. Pickard,	April 24, 1845
Mary R. Stalker,	Mar. 29, 1846
Lydia H. Lord,	June 4, 1848
Susanna Kimball,	July 29, 1849
Laura Ann Adams,	Oct. 18, 1849
Caroline Lakeman,	Oct. 18, 1849
Jane W. Baker,	Jan. 13, 1850
Lucretia Lord,	Jan. 13, 1850
Sarah Dodge,	Mar. 26, 1850
Louisa Manning,	April 2, 1850
Eunice Farley	April 2, 1850
Mary Sophia Coburn,	June 23, 1850
Margaret S. Kendall,	Aug. 4, 1850
Ann Kimball,	Aug. 4, 1850
Hannah B. Cogswell,	Aug. 4, 1850
Mary Eliza Lord,	Aug. 4, 1850
Eliza Ann Rutherford,	Aug. 4, 1850
Mary Ann English,	Aug. 4, 1850
Lucy Sarah Butler,	Aug. 4, 1850
Hannah Farnham,	Aug. 4, 1850
Charlotte W. Rogers,	Oct. 6, 1850
Elizabeth G. Rogers,	Oct. 6, 1850
Sarah H. Rogers,	Oct. 6, 1850
Martha A. Rogers,	Oct. 6, 1850
Frances A. Houghton,	Oct. 6, 1850
Joanna W. Baker,	Oct. 6, 1850
Sarah E. Blodgett,	Oct. 6, 1850
Abigail Lord,	Oct. 6, 1850
Elizabeth Lord,	Oct. 6, 1850
Mary Low Sutton,	Oct. 6, 1850

	Admitted.
Lydia Ross,	Oct. 6, 1850
Margaret Ann Caldwell,	Dec. 1, 1850
Elizabeth Bailey,	April 3, 1851
Mary Frances Southgate,	June 3, 1852
Sarah P. Oakes,	Feb. 3, 1853
Mary C. Harris,	Feb. 3, 1853
Louisa I. Pratt,	May 26, 1853
Abigail C. Peatfield,	Aug. 7, 1853
Hannah S. Caldwell,	Aug. 7, 1853
Sarah P. Caldwell,	Aug. 7, 1853
Martha Ann Lakeman,	Oct. 2, 1853
Alice M. Adams,	Dec. 4, 1853
Hannah B. Baker,	Dec. 4, 1853
Eliza Harriet Stanwood,	April 2, 1854
Susan Smith,	April 2, 1854
Hannah D. Lord,	June 4, 1854
Lucy Potter,	June 4, 1854
Ante Norman,	June 4, 1854
Eliza N. Perkins,	June 4, 1854
Margaret B. Johnson,	Aug. 6, 1854
Susan P. Trow,	Aug. 6, 1854
Sarah Lummus,	Feb. 1, 1855
Elizabeth Jane Averill,	April 1, 1855
Elizabeth Bailey,	April 1, 1855
Louisa A. M. Perkins,	Feb. 3, 1856
Sarah Lord Newman,	Feb. 3, 1856
Clementine S. Flitner,	Jan. 31, 1856
Emeline Farley,	June 7, 1857
Emeline C. Treadwell,	June 7, 1857
Caroline Haskell,	June 7, 1857
Eunice Caldwell,	June 7, 1857
Roxanna C. Cowles,	June 7, 1857
Caroline Henry,	June 7, 1857
Charlotte Van Buskirk,	June 7, 1857
Hannah Haskell,	Aug. 2, 1857

	Admitted.
Harriet Averill,	Aug. 2, 1857
Hannah M. Peatfield,	Aug. 2, 1857
Mary Jane Mann,	Aug. 2, 1857
Mary R. Stalker,	Aug. 2, 1857
Sarah B. Lord,	Aug. 2, 1857
Caroline A. Lord,	Aug. 2, 1857
Lucy R. F. H. Brown,	Oct. 4, 1857
Caroline Cushing,	Dec. 3, 1857
Lucy Smith,	Dec. 3, 1857
Susan Henderson,	Dec. 6, 1857
Mary P. Cowles,	Aug. 1, 1858
Ellen Newman,	April 3, 1859
Sarah T. Worcester,	Oct. 7, 1860
Margaret Wilcomb,	Oct. 7, 1860
Nancy W. Lord,	Dec. 6, 1860
Mary Jane Hodgkins,	June 2, 1861
Frances S. Southgate,	June 2, 1861
Sarah Jane Kimball,	Aug. 1, 1861
Lucy Harris,	Aug. 1, 1861
Hannah E. Giles,	June 1, 1862
Maria B. Nye,	June 1, 1862
Ellen S. Eastman,	June 1, 1862
Kate W. Tarr,	June 1, 1862

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